

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSF-01 COME-00 ERDA-05

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R 191535Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1441

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, MARR, SP

SUBJECT: JOINT COMMITTEE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FY78 PROGRAM PLANS

1. IN RECENT COVERSACTIONS BETWEEN SCIATT AND S&T JOINT COMMITTEE SECRETARY BENAVIDES LATTER HAS MADE INCREASINGLY POSITIVE STATEMENTS THAT THE SECOND YEAR S&T PROGRAM SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO COOPERATIVE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES WHICH MEET THE CRITERIA ALREADY AGREED ON. AT MOST RECENT MEETING HE TOLD SCIATT THAT SPANISH COCHAIRMAN BARROSO AGREES IN PRINCIPLE. HE ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE U.S. SIDE WOULD TAKE INITIATIVE ON THIS MATTER. WELL BEFORE THE MEETING OF THE S&T JOINT COMMITTEE ON OCTOBER 18, SO THAT A DECISION ON THIS BY THE TWO COCHAIRPERSONS WOULD SIMPLY BE RECORDED AT THE MEETING. WITHOUT DEBATE. HE ANTICIPATES NO PROBLEMS WITH THE TECHNICAL MINISTRIES IF THIS IS DONE.

2. EMBASSY FEELS THAT DROPPING DIRECT RESEARCH SUPPORT AND PROCUREMENT GRANTS IS CLEARLY IN OUR INTEREST AND IS INCLINED TO ACCEPT BENAVIDES ARGUMENT THAT BOTH SHORT AND LONG TERM TRAVEL CAN BE PROVIDED AS PART OF THE COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAMS IN EACH MAJOR SUBJECT AREA. IN CASES NOT COVERED BY SUBJECT AREA ALLOCATIONS THE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT
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FUND COULD PROVIDE INVITATIONAL TRAVEL.

3. COMMENT: THE UNHAPPY EXPERIENCE OF THE SPANISH SIDE WITH ITS PUBLIC CALLS FOR PROPOSALS IN THIS FIRST PROGRAM YEAR APPEARS TO HAVE BROUGHT AT LEAST THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AROUND TO THE POSITIONS AND PROCEDURES THE U.S. SIDE ADVOCATED AT THE MARCH 1976 WORKING

GROUP MEETING AND SINCE.
END COMMENT.

4. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW UP AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE ON THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GET THE PROGRAM ON
A PROPER TRACK. IT THEREFORE
SUGGESTS A LETTER FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MINK TO DIRECTOR GENERAL BARROSO REITERATING THE PRE-
VIOUSLY EXPRESSED US VIEW THAT THE S&T PROGRAM SHOULD IN
THE FUTURE CONCENTRATE ON COOPERATIVE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES
AND EXCLUDE DIRECT RESEARCH SUPPORT AND PROCUREMENT GRANTS.
THE LETTER MIGHT COMMENT THAT EXPERIENCE THUS FAR SEEMS TO
SUGGEST THE VALIDITY OF THIS APPROACH. STABLER

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